उद्देश्यों के अनुसार, इस योजना अवधि के अंत तक बड़ी टेलीफोन प्रणालियों में टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों के लिए प्रतीक्षा अवधि को घटाकर दो वर्ष करना। तदनुसार, चार महानगरों में टेलीफोन एक्सचैंजों के विस्तार के लिए योजनाएं बनाई जा रही हैं।

डाक कर्मचारियों की विधवाओं को पेंशन देने से इन्कार

39. प्रो॰ सौरीन भट्टाचार्य: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार और पश्चिमी बंगाल के महा-डाकपालों के क्षेत्राधिकारों के अधीन कार्य करने वाले भूतपूर्व कर्मचारियों की विधवाओं को उनकी मृत्यु होने तक पेंशन से वंचित रखा गया है;

(ख) क्या उनके निकटतम संबंधी को पेंशन की संचित राशि का शीघ्र भुगतान करने के संबंध में कोई अभ्यावेदन लंबित है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) पेंशन की राशि देने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम): (क) से (घ) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Utility of Satellite in Telecommunications

40. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the utility of the satellites in various fields of telecommunications;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether various telecommunication centres of the country are likely to become under the telegraph based on satellite to be added by more in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the details of the centres selected State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Satellite Communication Tech nology is being used primarily to provide reliable telecommunication facilities in remove areas of the country including hilly, island and inaccessible areas which are technically and economically not feasible on terrestrial media.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Five stations in NE region *viz.* Shillong, Dimapur, Itanagar, William Nagar and Imphal have been commissioned on trial basis.

(e) About twenty stations are likely to be covered in the Eighth Five Year Plan subject to availability of resources as follows:—

Arunachal Pradesh	3
Manipur	4
Meghalaya	1
Mizoram	3
Nagaland	5
Tripura	4

Probe into contract for Telephone Directory for Calcutta

41. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a contract was given to bring out the Telephone directory for Calcutta in 1991 but it was not brought out by the contractor who had collected advertisements worth crores of rupees; and

(b) if so, whether the Calcutta Telephone Advisory Committee has demanded a probe into this scandal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A contract was executed with the contractor for publication of five consecutive annual issues of Calcutta Telephone Directory

with yellow pages from 1988 to 1992 and after bringing out the issues for the years 1988 to 1989, the contractor failed to bring out the subsequent issues and contract was terminated and their security deposit forfeited.

(b) T.A.C. Calcutta has adversely criticised delay in issuing telephone directory.

Privatisation of Telecom Services

42. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMU NICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to demonopolise and privatise telecommunication services in the country;

(b) if so, what is the contemplated revised structure thereof; and

(c) the reasons to which this step is attributable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. However, value-added services have been opened up for private sector participation on a licence from Government.

(b) and (c) Government are not contemplating to privatise the basic service at this juncture.

Defaults of Automatic Computerised Telephone installations

43. SHRI M.A. BABY:
SHRI TINDIVANAN G. VENKATRAMAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that automatic computerised installations in telephones are not working satisfactorily;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the telephone Department has been the target of criticism from all States due to defaults occurring in phone connection frequently at short intervals;

(c) if so, what steps Government contemplates to revamp the shortcomings to the satisfaction of consumers;

(d) what is the total income and expenditure in 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(e) what is profit and loss account for these years; and

(f) what is the amount spent for maintenance per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) However, measures, as detailed in Statement-I, have been taken by the Department of Telecom, to minimise the faults occurring on phone connections and improve public perception.

(d) to (f) Details as per statement-II & HI.

Statement-I

— Phasing out of old and life expired electro-machanical exchanges by electronic exchanges.

— Laying of underground cables in ducts.

— Pressurisation of paper core underground cables.

— Use of jelly filled PVC insulation under-ground cables.

— Use of improved DP/CT boxes (DP-Distribution point, CT-Cable termination).

— Replacement of old fault prone underground cables and worn out drop wire.

— Use of insulated drop wire with proper accessories.

— Computerisation of Fault Repair Service.

— Improved customer interface.